

La Cucaracha

START

C C C **F** **A** **C C C** **F** **A** **F F** **E E**
 La - cu - ca - ra - cha La - cu - ca - ra - cha Im so sad to

D D C **C C C** **E** **G** **C C C** **E** **G** **C**
 see you go La - cu - ca - ra - cha La - cu - ca - ra - cha I

D C **#** **A** **G** **F** **C C** **F F** **A A** **C** **A**
 love you *te - qui - ero* yo. There's a bug some like to chase it

C D C **#** **A** **C** **#** **G** **C C** **E E** **G G** **#** **G**
 when we play we must out race it when at lunch we see it coming

C D C **#** **A** **G** **A** **F** END
 we're sup posed to send it run - ning.

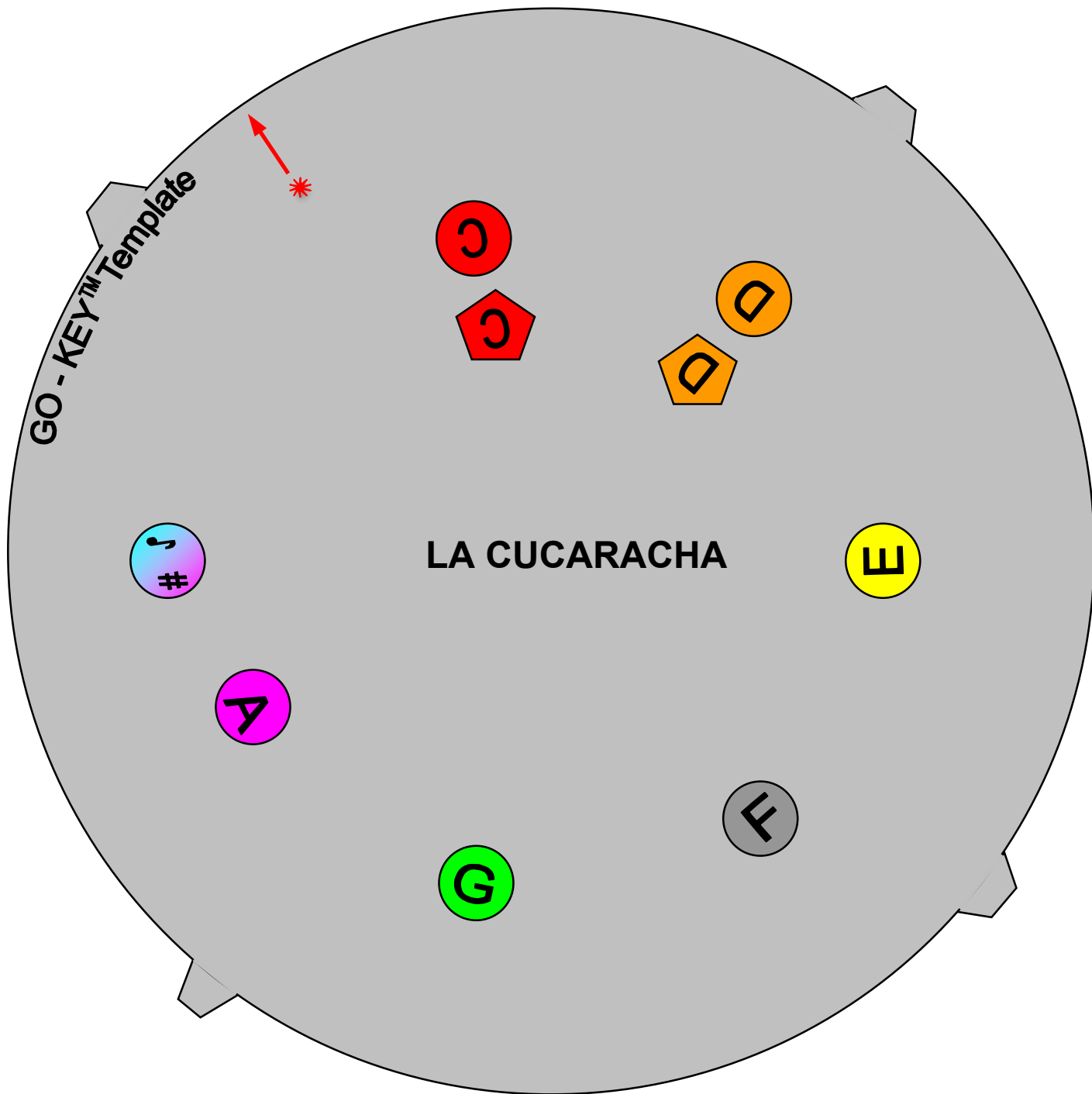
2. Tiny thing with no amigos, Not a friend where ever it goes,
Do you really want to banish little bugs who sing in Spanish?
3. Let the bugs enjoy their freedom, Even though we do not need them.
All las ninas and los ninos can't forget their true amigos.

Original Lyrics

La cu-ca- | ra-cha, la cu-ca-ra-cha
 | ya no pue-de ca-mi-nar
 por-que no | tie-ne, por-que le fal-tan
 | las dos pa-titas "de" a-trás.—

The cockroach, the cockroach
 can no longer walk
 because she doesn't have, because she lacks
 the two hind legs to walk

These lyrics form the basis for the refrain of most later versions.



History and Origin

La Cucaracha ("The Cockroach") is a traditional Spanish folk song. It is unknown when the song came about. It is very popular in Mexico, and was performed especially widely during the Mexican Revolution. Many alternative stanzas exist. The basic song describes a cockroach who cannot walk.

The origins of "La Cucaracha" are obscure. The refrain's lyrics make no explicit reference to historical events; it is difficult if not impossible therefore to date. Because verses are improvised according to the needs of the moment, however, they often enable a rough estimate of their age by mentioning contemporary social or political conditions (thus narrowing a version's possible time of origin to periods in which those conditions prevailed) or referring to specific current or past events (thus setting a maximum boundary for a version's age).

The song's earliest lyrics, from which its name is derived, concern a cockroach that has lost one of its six legs and is struggling to walk with the remaining five. There exist several early (pre-Revolution) sets of lyrics referring to historical events. Francisco Rodríguez Marín records in his book *Cantos Populares Españoles* (1883) several verses dealing with the Reconquista, which was completed in 1492 when the Moors surrendered the Alhambra to Spain. Some early versions of the lyrics discuss events that took place during the conclusion of the Granada War in 1492. One of the earliest written references to the song appears in Mexican writer and political journalist José Joaquín Fernández de Lizardi's 1819 novel *La Quijotita y su Prima*. Other early stanzas detail such incidents as the Carlist Wars (1833–1876) and the French intervention in Mexico (1861).

Whatever the song's origin, it was during the Mexican Revolution of the early 20th century that "La Cucaracha" saw the first major period of verse production as rebel and government forces alike invented political lyrics for the song. So many stanzas were added during this period that today it is associated mostly with Mexico.

Known Uses:

1934, Paz Flores y Montalvo Francisco – a Villist version.
 1935, Louis Armstrong
 1936, Dick Mine
 1964, The Skatalites – as "Ska-Racha"
 1966, Bill Haley & His Comets – "La Cucaracha a Go-Go"
 1967, James Last
 2002, Kumbia Kings
 2004, Chingon – as "Cuka Rocka"
 2004, Lila Downs on the CD "Una Sangre"
 2006, Orphei Drängar – "La Cucaracha arr. Robert Sund"
 2008, Big Idea – featured in DDR Disney Channel Edition
 2013, Piñata Protest

Other Uses, date unknown:

Baja Marimba Band
 James Booker
 Xavier Cugat
 Daffy Duck
 The Gipsy Kings

Goin' Bulilit and Bubble Gang
 The Gumm Sisters, & Judy Garland
 Big Walter Horton
 Les Nègresses Vertes
 Liberace
 Los Lobos
 Milva
 The Mills Brothers
 Mr. Bungle
 Oggy and the Cockroaches
 Charlie Parker
 Roddy Piper
 Louis Prima
 Riders In The Sky
 Ricardo Rodriguez
 Doug Sahn
 Leon Schuster–"Hie kommie Bokke"
 Slowpoke Rodriguez
 The Wiggles
 Zebda